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## GIRL SCOUT BIRTHDAY

On the celebration of the 49th birthday of the Girl Scouts of America the Adak Sun is proud to present a history of the Girl Scouts.

Just before the 20th century, during the Boer war, a British Officer, Robert Baden Powell, was sent to South Africa to defend Mafeking from assault. Finding the men under his command not prepared for vigorous life in the open he made up a series of games that he called "Stunts in Scouting" to help them. Dividing the men into patrols with leaders of their own choosing the men enjoyed the games so much that it was not long before boys in England took to doing the games.

When he returned to England, he rewrote the games into a program for boys and in 1908 Boy Scouting began. It wasn't long before the idea spread and many boys belonged to the new club. Girls saw what fun their brothers were having and began to clamor for their own club. In 1909 a Boy Scout Rally was held in the Crystal Palace in London where the King was to acclaim Sir Robert Baden-Powell "The Hero of Mafeking". To everyone's surprise, marching with the thousands of boys were a group of girls dressed in khaki shirts and "wide awake" hats. They were determined to be Scouts, too!

Almost before Sir Robert knew what was happening, some 6,000 girls had taken up the Scouting idea and something had to be done about them. In late, 1909, the Girl Guide movement was launched and Sir Robert's sister, Miss Agnes Baden-Powell, became its first president.

Girl Guiding soon spread all over the empire and the world. In some countries the name was changed to Girl Scouts. It was Juliette Gordon Low, friend of the Powell's who returned to America in January of 1912, began the movement in the United States. Soon after reaching Savannah, Georgia and contacting her friend, Miss Nina Pape a meeting was held with a group of girls from Miss Nina Pape's school and on March 12, 1912 the first Girl Guide Company in the U. S. was organized. In 1913 the name was changed to Girl Scouts.

The uniform of that first troop was blue, and the 1st Girl Scout Handbook was entitled: "How Girls Can Help Their Country." The story of the Girl Scouts those first few years is a story of the tireless energy and enthusiasm of one woman, JULIETTE LOW. The handicap of poor health and almost total deafness did not stop her from doing the work she had started and wherever she went new GIRL SCOUT TROOPS sprung up with her personal friends as the sometime unwilling leaders. She used her own money, even parting with a treasured heirloom, her pearls in order to continue the movement.

By the end of 1915 there were 5,000 Girl Scouts and the organization had a National Council and Constitution and By-Laws, Mrs. Low became the 1st President. Girl Scouts became widely known for their services during the 1st World War and by the end of 1919 there were 34,081 members.

Today, there are over a million Girl Scouts in the U. S. alone. Wherever you go, you will find your sister Scouts, in big cities and on farms, in school and church and even hospitals and over institutions. Let us wish all of them a happy birthday and salute those who help their cause.